

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

1. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody that binds to a conformational epitope of a Hepatitis C virus E2 protein, wherein the epitope is found in Hepatitis C virus of more than one genotype, and wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11, or binds to the same conformational epitope as that bound by an antibody selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11.

2 – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody that binds to a conformational epitope within amino acids 411 through 644 of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus 1b, wherein the antibody binds to the E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus of more than one genotype, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-5, CBH-8C, and CBH-11, or binds to the same conformational epitope as that bound by an antibody selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-5, CBH-8C, and CBH-11.

9. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody that binds to a conformational epitope within amino acids 470 through 644 of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus 1b, wherein the antibody is capable of binding to the E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus of more than one genotype, wherein the antibody is CBH-4G or CBH-7, or binds to the same conformational epitope as that bound by CBH-4G or CBH-7.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody that binds to the epitope recognized by CBH-2, -4D, -4B, -4G, -5, -7, -8C or -11.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein the antibody inhibits binding of HCV E2 protein to CD81.

15. (Currently amended) A cell line expressing the isolated antibody of claim 1.

16. (Previously presented) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a B cell line.

17. (Previously presented) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a human cell line.

18. (Previously presented) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a mammalian cell line.

19. (Previously presented) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a eukaryotic cell line.

20. (Previously presented) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line is a hybridoma.

21. (Previously presented) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line has been transformed with Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).

22. (Previously presented) The cell line of claim 15 wherein the cell line has been infected with a virus.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 1, 8, 9, or 12, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

26. (Currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 1, 8, 9, or 12, wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

27. (Currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 1, 8, 9, or 12, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

28. (Currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein the antibody is a mammalian antibody.

29-91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently amended) A combination of two or more isolated antibodies wherein at least two of the antibodies bind to different conformational epitopes of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus of more than one genotype, wherein each antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11, or binds to the same conformational epitope as that bound by an antibody selected from the group consisting of CBH-2, CBH-4G, CBH-5, CBH-7, CBH-8C, and CBH-11.

93. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 92, wherein the combination shows increased total binding of the combined antibodies to E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus compared to the binding shown by any of the antibodies individually.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-4G.

96. (Canceled)

97. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-17.

98-102. (Canceled)

103. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-5.

104. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 92 comprising CBH-7 and CBH-2.

105. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 93, wherein each antibody in the combination binds to a different epitope.

106. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody that binds to a conformational epitope of Hepatitis C virus E2 protein, wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-4B and CBH-4D.

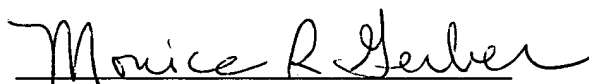
107. (Currently amended) A combination of two or more isolated antibodies, at least two of which bind to different conformational epitopes of E2 protein of Hepatitis C virus, wherein each antibody is selected from the group consisting of CBH-4B, CBH-4D, CBH-4G, and CBH-7.

Applicant submits that the Amendment to the Claims enclosed herein brings the Amendment filed Jan. 18, 2005, into compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121. Applicant therefore submits that the present case is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If, at any time, it appears that a phone discussion would be helpful, the undersigned would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss such issues at the Examiner's convenience. The undersigned can be contacted at (617) 248-5000 or (617) 248-5071 (direct dial).

Please charge any fees associated with this filing, or apply any credits, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Monica R. Gerber".

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